

A HORSE OWNER'S FEED ROOM GUIDE

From rodent proofing your bins, to storing your feed correctly and organising your utensils, it's essential to keep your feed room in order.

Does your feed room look like this?



1 Don't bulk buy if you can't use it all before the quality deteriorates.

2 Don't buy out of date feed or supplements even if they're discounted.

3 Store feed and supplements in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight.

4 Keep feed off the ground and away from walls, remove shrink wrap from pallets - this allows air to circulate and reduces condensation.

5 Ideally store your feed in drums or bins with secure lids ensuring old stock is used up before new is added to the bin.

6 Make sure containers are secured to keep damp out and reduce risk of contamination.

7 Ensure product is labelled if removed from original container - highlight if products need to be soaked before feeding to reduce the risk of them being misused.

8 Keep a record of batch numbers especially if you remove products from their original packaging - take a photo of the bag or tub label and keep it on your phone.

9 Keeping small samples from each batch is also good practice from a prohibited substance/NOPS perspective.

10 Don't store any human food or drinks (or allow eating or drinking) in your feed room - tea, coffee, biscuits and chocolate contain NOPS.

11 Don't store any herbal remedies or medications - intended for either humans or animals - in your feed room. If they are accidentally dropped into a feed bucket they could result in a positive prohibited substance test.

19 Horse feed should be clearly separated from that for any other species. Feeding products not intended for use in a particular species can cause serious issues, for example, sheep that are fed horse feed are at risk of copper toxicity.

18 Keeping utensils specific to each horse reduces the change of spreading disease and contamination with medications.

17 Keep buckets and utensils clean.

16 Ensure your feed room has an effective door - greedy ponies are very adept at getting in and eating things they shouldn't!

15 Clean up spills, dust ledges and remove cobwebs - all of these can harbour pests and disease.

14 Cover glass light bulbs and keep feed away from windows.

13 Keep feeding charts current and dated so everyone knows they are up to date.

12 Use a bucket cover if preparing feeds in advance. Put supplements and any medication in a zip-top plastic bag labelled with your horse's name so it is protected - medicines can lose their efficacy if exposed to light and moisture for too long.